

**RESOLUTION A.538(13)**

Revoked by A.891(21)

*Adopted on 17 November 1983  
Agenda item 10(b)*

**MARITIME SAFETY TRAINING OF PERSONNEL  
ON MOBILE OFFSHORE UNITS**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 16(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations concerning maritime safety,

RECOGNIZING that the application of Conventions such as the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, may not be appropriate in respect of mobile offshore units,

BEING OF THE OPINION that maritime safety training and on-board drills on mobile offshore units would enhance the possibility of survival of persons during an emergency situation,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its forty-eighth session,

1. ADOPTS the Recommendation on Maritime Safety Training of Personnel on Mobile Offshore Units, set out in the Annex to the present resolution;
2. URGES all Member Governments concerned to give effect to the content of the Recommendation as soon as practicable.

ANNEX

**RECOMMENDATION ON MARITIME SAFETY TRAINING  
OF PERSONNEL ON MOBILE OFFSHORE UNITS**

1 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Recommendation:

1. **Mobile offshore units** means vessels which can be readily relocated and can perform an industrial function involving offshore operations other than those traditionally provided by vessels covered by chapter I of the 1974 SOLAS Convention. Such units would include at least the following:
  - 1.1 **Mobile offshore drilling units** capable of engaging in drilling operations for the exploration for or exploitation of resources beneath the sea-bed such as liquid or gaseous hydrocarbons, sulphur or salt.

- .1.2 **Mobile offshore accommodation units** the primary purpose of which is to accommodate personnel working offshore.
- .1.3 **Other mobile offshore units** involved in activities such as:
- construction
  - maintenance
  - lifting operations
  - pipe laying
  - fire fighting.
- .2 **Special personnel** means all persons carried on board a mobile offshore unit in connection with the special purpose of the unit or with special work being carried out on the unit and who are neither seafarers nor directly or indirectly paying passengers.\*
- .3 **Persons in charge** means the person on each unit to whom all personnel on board are responsible.
- .4 **Maritime safety training** means training with respect to safety of life at sea, including personal and group survival.
- .5 **Muster list** means the muster list prescribed by any international convention or recommendation which applies to the unit. If no convention or recommendation applies, it means a similar list which indicates essential information on actions to be taken in the event of an emergency on the unit, in particular the station to which each person should go and the duties that person should perform.

## 2 CATEGORIES OF PERSONNEL

Personnel on mobile offshore units are for practical reasons divided into four categories:

- .1 visitors and special personnel not regularly assigned;
- .2 regularly assigned special personnel without designated responsibility for the survival of others;
- .3 regularly assigned special personnel with designated responsibility for the survival of others; and
- .4 seafarers on self-propelled mobile offshore units or, where required, on other units.

## 3 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PERSON IN CHARGE CONCERNING MARITIME SAFETY TRAINING

3.1 The person in charge should be well acquainted with the characteristics, capabilities and limitations of the unit and should have a full knowledge of the organization and actions to take in an emergency and the need to conduct and keep records of emergency drills and training.

3.2 The person in charge, or persons delegated by him, should possess the capability to maintain and operate all fire-fighting equipment and life-saving appliances on board the unit and be able to train others in these activities.

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\* Special personnel are expected to be able-bodied and to have some knowledge of safety procedures and handling of safety equipment on board.

#### 4 RECOMMENDED MARITIME SAFETY TRAINING

Recommended maritime safety training for personal and group survival for personnel listed in paragraph 2 is given in the Appendix.

### APPENDIX

#### RECOMMENDED MARITIME SAFETY TRAINING FOR PERSONAL AND GROUP SURVIVAL

##### 1 ON-BOARD TRAINING AND DRILLS IN EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR SURVIVAL

1.1 All personnel of mobile offshore units should receive training in procedures for survival in the event of an emergency by means of abandon unit drills and fire drills conducted at least once each week. Drills should be so arranged that all personnel participate in a drill at least once a month.

1.2 Drills should be so conducted as to ensure that all personnel are aware of their emergency stations and are capable of efficiently performing in an emergency the duties assigned to them in the muster list, including but not restricted to duties in case of:

- .1 controllable fires;
- .2 collision or other serious casualties involving the unit;
- .3 severe storms;
- .4 man overboard;
- .5 abandonment of the unit.

1.3 Drills should, as far as practicable, be conducted as if an actual emergency exists and demonstrate that appliances are complete, in good working order and ready for immediate use.

1.4 Drills should involve, as far as practicable, operation of all life-saving and fire-fighting equipment provided on board including but not restricted to:

- .1 the general emergency alarm specified in the muster list;
- .2 donning of lifejackets and, if provided, immersion suits;
- .3 use of means of access to and mustering at stations assigned in the muster list;
- .4 instruction on the procedures for preparing, boarding and launching of survival craft. Operation of launching appliances including, where practicable, partial lowering or launching of any survival craft;
- .5 survival craft and rescue craft engines;
- .6 radio life-saving appliances without actual transmission on any distress frequency;
- .7 fire alarms and other emergency alarms where fitted;
- .8 fire-fighting equipment such as fire pumps, fire hoses and hydrants, foam generators and firemen's outfits;

- .9 demonstration of the uses of portable fire extinguishers;
- .10 fire and watertight doors and other closing arrangements and escape routes;
- .11 remote controls for stopping ventilation and fuel supplies to machinery spaces;
- .12 emergency lighting of survival craft embarkation and launching area and escape routes.

1.5 As far as practicable taking advantage of suitable weather, each rescue craft and rigid survival craft should be launched with its operating crew aboard and manoeuvred in the water at least once every three months.

## 2 PERSONAL AND GROUP SURVIVAL

### 2.1 Visitors and special personnel not regularly assigned

Visitors and special personnel not regularly assigned should, upon arrival on board the unit, be properly instructed in:

- .1 the need to be prepared for an emergency;
- .2 the need to observe strictly the requirements of the muster list, in particular those relating to:
  - their specific conduct in any emergency,
  - their survival craft station,
  - the general emergency and fire alarm signals calling all personnel to their assigned stations,
  - how the order to abandon the unit will be given;
- .3 the need to be alert for the sounding of alarm signals and to respond to them in emergencies;
- .4 the location of their own and spare lifejackets and, if provided, immersion suits and the method of properly donning them;
- .5 the dangers of jumping into the sea from a height, particularly when wearing a lifejacket;
- .6 the location of means of escape including those leading to survival craft stations;
- .7 the need to participate in drills held during the time they are on board;
- .8 essential fire precautions.

### 2.2 Regularly assigned special personnel without designated responsibility for the survival of others

Regularly assigned special personnel without designated responsibility for the survival of others on board a unit should receive instructions and appropriate training, as given in section 1 above, and in addition should receive basic on-board training and instructions in:

- .1 the emergencies which might occur on that particular type of mobile offshore unit;
- .2 the consequences of panic;
- .3 the types of all life-saving appliances carried on the unit and proper methods of using them, including:

- .3.1 the correct method of donning and wearing a lifejacket and, if provided, an immersion suit,
- .3.2 jumping into the water from a height while wearing a lifejacket and, if provided, an immersion suit,
- .3.3 how to board survival craft from the unit and from the water,
- .3.4 swimming while wearing a lifejacket, and
- .3.5 keeping afloat without a lifejacket;
- .4 where appropriate, how to survive in the water:
  - in the presence of fire or oil on the water;
  - in cold water;
  - if sharks may be present;
- .5 the location and actuation of fire alarm controls;
- .6 the location and proper method of use of fire-fighting equipment;
- .7 the need to adhere to the principles of survival;
- .8 the basic methods of boarding helicopters;
- .9 fire precautions.

**2.3 Regularly assigned special personnel with designated responsibility for the survival of others**

2.3.1 All regularly assigned special personnel with designated responsibility for the survival of others on board the unit should receive instruction and training from qualified and experienced persons on shore and on board the unit, as appropriate, to ensure ability to assume such responsibility.

2.3.2 Such instruction and training should include that given in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 and instruction and training in:

- .1 marshalling personnel;
- .2 abandonment of the unit including:
  - .2.1 launching survival craft;
  - .2.2 getting survival craft quickly and safely clear of the unit;
  - .2.3 righting a capsized survival craft;
- .3 handling all survival craft and their equipment, including:
  - .3.1 checking and maintaining their readiness for immediate use;
  - .3.2 using equipment to the best advantage;
  - .3.3 using the sea anchor;
  - .3.4 remaining, as far as practicable, in the general vicinity of the unit, well clear of but not downwind of any hydrocarbons or fire;
  - .3.5 recovering and, as far as practicable, caring for other survivors;
  - .3.6 keeping a look-out;

- .3.7 operating available means of detection by others, including radio distress alerting and radio emergency procedures;
- .3.8 making proper use of food and drinking water and using protective measures in survival craft such as those:
  - for preventing exposure to cold, sun, wind, rain and sea;
  - against seasickness;
- .4 cautioning on the preservation of body fluids and the dangers of drinking seawater;
- .5 transferring personnel from survival craft to helicopters or to work boats;
- .6 maintaining morale;
- .7 methods of helicopter rescue; and
- .8 methods of fire prevention, detection, isolation, control and extinguishing, including:
  - .8.1 the use of fire-fighting equipment provided on board; and
  - .8.2 checking and maintaining fire-fighting equipment.

#### **2.4 Seafarers on self-propelled mobile offshore units and, where required, on other units**

2.4.1 All seafarers on board self-propelled mobile offshore units and, where required, on other units should meet the requirements of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, and the recommendations of the International Conference on Training and Certification of Seafarers, 1978.

2.4.2 In addition to meeting the requirements referred to in paragraph 2.4.1 above, all seafarers on board self-propelled mobile offshore units and, where required, on other units should be given on-board training and instruction in types of emergencies which might occur on the particular type of mobile offshore unit they are to serve on.